

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-05 SS-15 SP-02 /093 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HHLANGE:MHS

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSE

L/OES:JCROOK (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:MHABIB (PHONE)

EUR/NE:WBUELL (PHONE)

OES/ENP/EN:GBURKE (DRAFT)

PM/ISO:MPASZTELANIEC (DRAFT)

----- 012134

R 030015Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 103619

E.O. 11652: N/A

-

TAGS: SENV, PLOS, NH

SUBJECT: OIL POLLUTION FROM SS PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

REF: SUVA 238

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER WHICH YOU MAY PREPARE AND TRANSMIT TO THE BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER:

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 24, CONCERNING THE THREAT OF POLLUTION FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE SS PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN REFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CONSIDERATION. THE MATTER HAS BEEN EXAMINED, AND I WISH TO CONVEY THE RESPONSE OF MY GOVERNMENT.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF MARINE POLLUTION, WHEREVER IT OCCURS, AND FAVORS ANY MEASURES WHICH CAN PREVENT OR AMELIORATE SUCH POLLUTION. BASED UPON YOUR LETTER AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH YOU FURNISHED, IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE DETERIORATION OF THE SUNKEN SHIP, SS PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, AND THE SEEPAGE OF THE FUEL OIL WHICH IT CONTAINS, PRESENTS A POLLUTION THREAT TO THE SHORES AND SURROUNDING WATERS OF ESPIRITU SANTO ISLAND.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE SITUATION INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT COOLIDGE, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO RECENT CASES OF OIL POLLUTION FROM SUNKEN SHIPS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCLUDES THAT IT CANNOT MAKE A MONETARY CONTRIBUTION TO DEFRAID THE COSTS OF REMOVING OIL FROM THE SHIP. THE FACT THAT THE CONDOMINIUM GOVERNMENT HAS LIMITED RESOURCES IS RECOGNIZED, AND IT IS HOPED THAT YOU MAY OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE ADMINISTERING COUNTRIES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES. MY GOVERNMENT REGRETS THAT IT CANNOT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER.

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THIS DECISION TO YOUR COLLEAGUE, THE FRENCH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER. END TEXT

2. REFTTEL BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSIES LONDON AND PARIS. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION, SS PRESIDENT COOLIDGE
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505101/baaaaiqt.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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